

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2005
6 to 9 p.m.
College Hill Library, Room L-107
Front Range Community College, Westminster, Colorado

Board Chair Jerry DePoorter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Earl Gunia, Erin Hamby, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, Mike Maus, Bill McNeill, Hank Stovall / John Rampe (DOE-RFPO), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Dean Rundle (USFWS), Mark Aguilar (EPA), Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM)

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Suzanne Allen, Andrew Ross, Phil Tomlinson / none

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Ralph Stephens (Denver), James Horan (Denver), Rob Henneke (EPA), Pam Tumler (GAO), Bob Nininger (Kaiser-Hill), Larry Kimmel (EPA), Al Nelson (Westminster), Shirley Garcia (Broomfield), John Boylan (URS), Bob Darr (DOE-RFPO), Dave Shelton (Kaiser-Hill) / Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff), Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS:

There was no public comment.

Board member Phil Tomlinson will be traveling this summer and requested a leave of absence for three months, extending from June to August. The Board approved his request.

On June 15, Board members were reminded that they will meet for their monthly Committee Night at Rocky Flats for a tour of the drainages and remediation sites. The tour will begin at 6:00 p.m. Staff will work to finalize details of the tour.

John Rampe stated that DOE is planning to fund the Board's operations through next year and asked that the Board begin considering its budget request and have it too him within the next couple of months.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE INTEGRATED MONITORING PLAN:

John Boylan of URS Group gave a presentation on the Integrated Monitoring Plan (IMP), which governs the monitoring of surface water, groundwater, air, and the ecology at Rocky Flats.

John said the IMP is developed with the participation of staff from the Department of Energy (DOE), Kaiser-Hill, state and federal regulating agencies, the CAB, cities and counties, and the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments (RFCLoG).

Working groups for each of the media – surface and ground water, air, and environment – meet throughout the year. Normally, the IMP is an annual document, however, quarterly reviews of the various components of the IMP will be held in late June and early July.

John described components of the monitoring networks for air, ecology, surface water, and groundwater anticipated after site closure. He said the air monitoring network is being downsized as cleanup actions are completed. The new network will consist of three air samplers – one upwind of the site and two downwind. (Upwind and downwind are defined according to the predominant wind pattern from west to east.) Plutonium, americium, and uranium will be monitored monthly and a 12-month average dose will be used in the calculations of emissions. If emissions of radionuclides are "significantly" below 0.1 millirem per year (mrem/yr) for three consecutive years, air monitoring may be discontinued.

Monitoring of the Rocky Flats ecology will be essentially unchanged, though some project-specific monitoring will

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be removed. The environmental monitoring after closure will focus mostly on noxious weeds and revegetation.

Most reductions to the surface water monitoring network will occur just before closure. Surface water monitoring is based on the following objectives: (1) Surface water flow from the Industrial Area to the Walnut Creek and Woman Creek drainages is monitored to determine if there is contamination coming from specific site project areas; (2) Walnut Creek and Woman Creek are monitored for evaluation and regulatory compliance; (3) the suite of analytes include plutonium, americium, uranium, nitrates, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs); and (4) pond levels and dam saturation levels are monitored.

The FY2005 IMP network will likely be the final network for groundwater with a few minor exceptions. Groundwater monitoring at the landfills will be set by the Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action (IM/IRA) for each project. Excess groundwater monitoring will be eliminated in the final Record of Decision (ROD). Within the last year, groundwater monitoring decision rules and well classifications were revised. The decision rules now include statistical trending and comparison to surface water standards. The monitoring program contains a strong emphasis on protecting surface water.

John presented maps of the air, groundwater, and surface water networks at the site. The Surface Water network will consist of five Points of Compliance (POCs), three Points of Evaluation (POEs), and six Points of Measurements (POMs). The POM classification is new. POM data will be used to find out what is happening in the subdrainages.

A Board member asked whether the ponds eventually were going to be converted to flow-through structures, as was previously planned. Steve Gunderson of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) said that the communities wanted to keep the ponds as a protection against contamination moving offsite. He said the ponds would stay as they are for the immediate future.

Another Board member asked about recent surface water exceedances at monitoring stations. The high levels seen at a couple of the stations appear to have resulted from erosion of surface soil. Some radionuclides adhere to surface particles. A Board member asked whether there had been any thought to regrading the Industrial Area into the shape of a large bowl to prevent erosion and stop contamination from moving into the drainages. Bob Nininger said the best way to control erosion is through successful revegetation in areas where there has been recontouring. Vegetation slows down the flow of water and soil in those areas will absorb water rather than allow sheet flow.

Next, John Boylan explained well classifications for groundwater. The classes are evaluation well, sentinel well, "area of concern" (AOC) well, and boundary well. Evaluation wells are placed at the edge of a contaminant source area. The sentinel wells are placed at the leading edge of a contaminant plume and near potential contaminant sources. The AOC wells are in the drainages downstream from contaminant plumes. The boundary wells, of which there are two, are placed at the eastern border of the site.

In answer to a question, John said the wells range from a depth of six feet to 250 feet. In answer to another question, John said monitoring will be performed downstream of the location where portions of buildings are left behind.

John discussed the complicated decision criteria to determine how analytes may be dropped from being monitored at individual wells. The decision to suspend sampling of a particular analyte will depend on a comparison to the risk-based Surface Water Program Remediation Goals for a Wildlife Refuge Worker. John said the surface water standards are stronger than groundwater standards. An audience member questioned the validity of comparing groundwater levels to surface water. Steve Gunderson answered that the purpose of groundwater monitoring is to protect surface water. However, John Rampe of DOE acknowledged that others in the Rocky Flats community have been confused by the use of surface water PRGs and suggested that these standards be changed.

Next, Scott Surovchak of the DOE's Office of Legacy Management presented a proposed Interim Surveillance and Maintenance Plan (ISMP). Scott said this plan would likely take effect at physical closure, expected at the end of October. It would replace the IMP but would likely incorporate the monitoring networks as they are presented in the IMP.

The major contents of the ISMP will be routine site operations and maintenance; routine site inspections; monitoring of the environment, institutional controls and regulatory compliance; records management; data management; emergency information and corrective actions; planning and budgeting; and reporting. Scott said the plan will go for DOE review in June and July, for stakeholder and regulator review in July and August, and be finalized in August-September.

In answer to a question, Scott said Legacy Management (LM) deals with S.M. Stoller as its primary contractor. Stoller will take over from Kaiser-Hill in performing work at the site. In answer to another question, John Rampe said there would be no interruption of monitoring as the site transitions from the IMP to the ISMP. The site monitoring system will be as it is in the IMP. A Board member asked why site personnel were going to review the IMP in July when the ISMP was going to subsume the IMP in such a short time. Scott said he is in regular contact with the parties to the IMP and any new changes would be readily incorporated.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SURFACE WATER QUALITY EXCEEDANCES:

Bob Nininger of Kaiser-Hill said there have been no reportable incidences of high contaminant levels in surface water at Points of Compliance (POCs). If surface water monitoring shows levels of contaminants above surface water standards set in the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA) at POCs or Points of Evaluation (POEs), then the DOE must report the occurrence to the state CDPHE and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Surface water exceedances of plutonium and americium occurred during much of 2004 at POE GS10 and from February through May 2005. Contaminant levels are calculated using a 30-day rolling average. The standard is 0.15 picocuries per liter (pCi/l) for both Pu and Am. Bob said, however, that the erosion controls placed on the site appear to be working, as recent individual samples are below the standard. Erosion controls include newly installed functional channels, coconut matting, hay bales, and straw wattles. In answer to a question, Bob said the long-term solution to erosion is to have a successful revegetation program that will prevent soil and contaminant particles from moving into downstream channels.

A Board member asked whether the contaminated soil in the Industrial Area is below the 50 picocuries per gram (pCi/g) standard set in RFCA. Bob said the soil is about 5 pCi/g. He said the reason for the exceedances is that there is such a massive amount of soil disturbed in the Industrial Area, it has caused a lot of soil to wash into the drainages, carrying plutonium and americium with it. Surface soil standards are not connected to the surface water standards, so that an area containing surface soil of only a few pCi/g of Pu could cause surface water standards to be busted downstream.

Bob said that SW093, which has seen recent exceedances, has recovered "very dramatically." SW093 was showing exceedances last year and in early April of this year. However, from about the middle of April, the 30-day average has dropped well below the 0.15 pCi/g standard.

Bob said data from POE SW027, at the end of the South Interceptor Ditch, exceeded stream quality standards as of June 2. He said invalidated data shows the contaminant concentration is going down. Bob believes this contamination is a further washout of contamination that showed up last year.

UPDATE ON INDEPENDENT REVIEWS:

John Rampe reported that Kaiser-Hill has completed its sampling plan and it is now in effect. They have started the ground-based gamma scanning and have discovered some areas that will require additional scanning. The helicopter aerial scanning will begin on June 12 and will extend through the rest of that week. The Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) will begin its field work to take soil samples at the end of June. The first sampling will be in the 903 Pad area and will be MARSSIM based. ORISE will use the MARSSIM sampling to confirm the aerial and ground gamma scanning that will be done by Kaiser-Hill.

With respect to the independent reviews commissioned by some of the local governments, John reported that site personnel have met with one of the independent reviewers, Muller Engineering, to discuss the sitewide water balance. The site will meet with the other reviewers in the coming weeks. John also stated that he has prepared a set of preliminary responses to the set of questions stemming from the reviews that were prepared by the Coalition of Local Governments.

In discussion, John confirmed that the site is preparing an outreach strategy in case questions arise in the community when they see the helicopter flying over the site during the aerial survey. A member also asked about soil sampling that will take place and whether it will disturb the erosion mats that have been used extensively at the site. John stated that usually the size of each sample is rather small, so there shouldn't be too much of a problem with tearing up the mats. If there is damage, it will be repaired.

PROPOSAL ON LOCAL STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP SELECTION:

The Board considered a draft proposal concerning membership identification and selection for the future Rocky Flats Local Stakeholder Organization. The proposal asks for DOE and the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments to join the Board in co-sponsoring a public meeting where the LSO membership issues can be addressed. This meeting would be widely advertised and held at a time convenient to the public.

The Board approved the proposal by unanimous consent. It will be sent to Mike Owen, the Director of the Office of Legacy Management. Copies will be sent to the Secretary of Energy, the local Congressional delegation, other Legacy Management officials, and the Coalition.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS:

Member Mary Mattson reported that she had heard that demolition of building 776 went very smoothly and there was not any reported air contamination, despite the fact that the building was not completely free of contamination when it was demolished. Another member stated it would be good to have some post-demolition reports where this type of information could be shared with the Board.

PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

For the June 15 Committee Night, the Board will meet at Rocky Flats for a tour of the drainages and other remediation sites.

At the July 7 Board meeting, there will be a presentation and discussion on the Rocky Flats Interim Surveillance and Maintenance Plan. The Board also will hear about results of environmental sampling taken during the various building demolitions. There also will be an executive session during the meeting to consider annual staff evaluations.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: July 7, 2005 6 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: College Hill Library, Room L-107, Front Range Community College
Agenda:

- *Presentation and Discussion on the Rocky Flats Interim Surveillance and Maintenance Plan*
- *Presentation and Discussion on Air Monitoring Results During Building Demolition*
- *Other items as necessary*

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 p.m. *

(* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in the RFCAB office.)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Bill Kossack, Secretary
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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